

We claim:

1        1.        A drawing tablet comprising:  
2        a surface; and  
3        an imaging sensor designed to capture an image on the surface, the imaging sensor  
4        designed to capture the image even if the image is occluded.

1        2.        A drawing tablet according to claim 1, wherein:  
2        the surface is translucent; and  
3        the imaging sensor is mounted below the surface.

1        3.        A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising  
2        transmission means designed to transmit the image captured by the imaging sensor to a  
3        computer.

1        4.        A drawing tablet according to claim 3, wherein the transmission means  
2        includes a cable coupled to the drawing tablet and to the computer.

1        5.        A drawing tablet according to claim 3, wherein the transmission means a  
2        wireless transmitter designed to wirelessly transmit the image to the a wireless receiver  
3        coupled to the computer.

1        6.        A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising  
2        software in a computer designed to adjust the image to compensate for distortion by the  
3        imaging sensor.

1        7.        A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising  
2        software in a computer designed to adjust the image to compensate for a reversed image  
3        captured by the imaging sensor.

1        8.        A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising  
2        an erasable pen designed to draw on the surface.

1           9.     A drawing tablet according to claim 8, the drawing tablet further comprising  
2     an eraser for erasing marks produced by the erasable pen.

1           10.    A drawing tablet according to claim 8, wherein the image is hand-drawn with  
2     the erasable pen.

1           11.    A drawing tablet according to claim 2, wherein the imaging sensor is designed  
2     to capture images of physical objects placed on the surface.

1           12.    A drawing tablet according to claim 2, wherein the imaging sensor is designed  
2     to capture colors in the image on the surface.

1           13.    A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising  
2     software in a computer designed to animate at least a portion of the image.

1           14.    A drawing tablet according to claim 13, wherein the software is designed to  
2     animate the portion of the image based on a movement of a physical object placed on the  
3     surface.

1           15.    A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising  
2     light projecting means.

1           16.    A drawing tablet according to claim 15, wherein the light projecting means  
2     includes:

3           a light emitting source; and  
4           mirrors designed to reflect the light; and  
5           galvanometers designed to move the mirrors to steer light emitting from the light  
6     emitting source onto the surface.

1           17.    A drawing tablet according to claim 16, wherein the light emitting source is  
2     constructed and arranged to vary its luminance.

1           18.     A drawing tablet according to claim 2, the drawing tablet further comprising  
2     an additional light source to increase contrast of the image on the surface as captured by the  
3     imaging sensor.

1           19.     A method for using a drawing tablet, the method comprising:  
2             capturing an image from the surface of the drawing tablet so that no objects on the  
3     surface of the drawing tablet are occluded;  
4             transmitting the captured image to a computer; and  
5             processing the captured image on the computer for display on a monitor.

1           20.     A method according to claim 19, wherein capturing an image includes  
2     capturing the image from beneath the surface of the drawing tablet, the drawing tablet  
3     including a translucent surface.

1           21.     A method according to claim 20, wherein transmitting the captured image  
2     includes wirelessly transmitting the captured image to a computer.

1           22.     A method according to claim 20, wherein processing the captured image  
2     includes animating at least a portion of the captured image.

1           23.     A method according to claim 22, wherein animating at least a portion of the  
2     captured image includes animating the portion of the captured image based on the contents of  
3     the captured image.

1           24.     A method according to claim 23, wherein animating the portion of the  
2     captured image includes animating the portion of the captured image based on a change in the  
3     contents of the captured image.

1           25.     A method according to claim 20, the method further comprising repeating at  
2     intervals the steps of capturing, transmitting, and processing.

1           26.     A method according to claim 25, the method further comprising updating the  
2     image on the surface of the drawing tablet.

1           27.     A method according to claim 20, the method further comprising projecting a  
2 light onto the drawing tablet.

1           28.     A method according to claim 27, the method further comprising;  
2 capturing a change in the captured image; and  
3 measuring how accurately the change follows the projected light.

1           29.     An article comprising:  
2 a storage medium, said storage medium having stored thereon instructions, that, when  
3 executed by a computing device, result in:  
4 receiving an image captured from a surface of a drawing tablet, the image captured in  
5 a manner such that no portion of the surface of the drawing tablet is occluded;  
6 modifying the received image; and  
7 displaying the modified image.

1           30.     An article according to claim 29, wherein receiving an image includes  
2 receiving the image captured by an imaging sensor from the surface of the drawing tablet.

1           31.     An article according to claim 29, wherein receiving an image includes  
2 receiving an image captured from beneath the surface of the drawing tablet, the surface of the  
3 drawing tablet being translucent.

1           32.     An article according to claim 29, wherein modifying the received image  
2 includes modifying the received image based on the contents of the image.

1           33.     An article according to claim 29, wherein modifying the received image  
2 includes modifying the image based on a change from a prior image.

1           34.     An article according to claim 33, wherein modifying the image based on a  
2 change from a prior image includes animating the image based on the change.